

FOREWORD

This issue of the Journal of Investigative Dermatology is published in honor of John Hinchman Stokes, B.A., M.D., Director of the Institute for the Study of Venereal Disease, University of Pennsylvania, and Emeritus Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology of that university. In publishing a special issue as a mark of the respect in which Dr. Stokes is held by dermatologists and by workers in many other fields of science throughout the world, the Journal is following a custom which has been observed more frequently by European than American scientific journals. The Editors believe it to be a good custom, and a fitting form of recognition for individuals who have attained true pre-eminence in science.

Dr. Stokes has recently resigned as Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology of the University of Pennsylvania, and is now, with an activity, energy, and enthusiasm possessed by few men, devoting himself principally to direction of the Institute for the Study of Venereal Disease, which he founded. In recent years he has become increasingly interested in an attack upon the problem of venereal disease along lines broader than had previously been used in a single effort, employing all the principles of medicine, sociology, philosophy and ethics which may be brought to bear upon the problem. While this is a major interest, Dr. Stokes is also actively engaged in the practice of dermatology, and his present associates will attest to his continuing interest in, and ever stimulating and unusual approaches to, the problem of dermatologic disease.

While the number of scientific papers and books written by an individual may be a misleading indicator of his accomplishments, the volume of works from the pen of Dr. Stokes is a noteworthy example of an extraordinary productivity in a portion of one person's lifetime. Stokes' publications include 211 papers and 5 books. Their subject matter ranges widely over the various aspects of dermatology and syphilology, avoiding only the more static features of these branches of medicine. The author's thoughts are expressed with a clarity of English, an aptness of phraseology, and a distinctiveness of style equalled by few writers, medical or lay. Each paper contains something of Stokes, and an initiate to his style has no difficulty in recognizing a particular paper as from his hand. His most famous work, "Modern Clinical Syphilology," has now passed through three editions, and is recognized everywhere as a truly authoritative and encyclopedic work on syphilis. Recognition of this type comes to few medical books. Had he done nothing else, Stokes would have realized a significant accomplishment in the writing of this volume in which, as Pusey stated in a review of the first edition, he "has put his life's blood."

Among the more important appointments which Stokes has held are first Chief of the Section on Dermatology and Syphilology of the Mayo Clinic; Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology of the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Minnesota; Chairman, Committee on Research in Syphilis (Co-operative Clinical Group); Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology of the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsyl-

vania; U. S. Public Health Service representative on the League of Nations Committee of Experts on Syphilis; Special Consultant and Senior Surgeon (Reserve), U. S. Public Health Service; Member, Sub-Committee on Venereal Diseases, National Research Council, etc., etc. In 1945 Dr. Stokes received a Citation for Especially Meritorious and Outstanding Service, from the Commanding General, Third Service Command, U. S. Army; and was recently given the William Freeman Snow Award for 1946 by the American Social Hygiene Association.

The first small meeting leading to the founding of the Society for Investigative Dermatology was presided over by Dr. Stokes. The Society and this *Journal* owe him much for his leadership at a time when the Society was conceived in the minds of a few men who desired to foster experimental work in dermatology in the United States. It is therefore most fitting that this *Journal* should devote the present issue to honoring Dr. Stokes at this milestone in his road as an investigator and an inspirer of dermatologic investigations.

A quotation from the writings of the French mathematician and physicist, Jean Baptiste Biot, hand lettered by Stokes himself, has long hung on the wall of the office of the Department of Dermatology and Syphilology of the University of Pennsylvania. It reads as follows:

"Perhaps your name, your existence will be unknown to the crowd. But you will be known, esteemed, sought after by a small number of eminent men scattered over the face of the earth, your rivals, your peers in the intellectual Senate of minds; they alone have the right to appreciate you and to assign to you your rank, a well-merited rank, which no princely will, no popular caprice can give or take away; and which will remain yours as long as you remain faithful to Science, which bestows it upon you."

The associates and friends of John H. Stokes will recognize that here is his *credo scientiae*, to which he has always remained faithful in the light of his own conscience.

DONALD M. PILLSBURY.
Philadelphia, October, 1946.